

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on January 18, 2005, claims 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and claims 1-10 and 21-26 were allowed.

Claims 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,815,863 ("Larson '863"). With this Amendment, independent claim 15 discloses a method for arranging conduit into a pattern of parallel spaced conduit. The method includes providing one or more conduit racking devices each having a shelf with a plurality of alignment holes for receiving conduit, wherein each alignment hole has a tab. The one or more conduit racking devices are secured to a building structure. Conduit is placed through one or more of the alignment holes in each of the one or more conduit racking devices and secured to the tabs.

With this Amendment, independent claim 15 and claims 16-19 (which depend from claim 15) are in condition for allowance. Larson '863 teaches a garden tool stand for storing tools with relatively long handles, golf clubs, brooms, canes, umbrellas, and the like. (Col. 1, lines 17-20). Larson '863 does not teach, disclose, or suggest a conduit racking device with alignment holes including tabs, and, furthermore, does not teach, disclose, or suggest securing conduit to the tabs. Furthermore, the tab-related language added to claim 15 with this Amendment was taken directly from allowed independent claim 21. As such, the tab-related language does not present new issues or matter requiring further consideration or searching. Thus, for the foregoing reasons, claims 15-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson '863. Since amended claim 15 is now in condition for allowance, claim 20 (which depends from amended claim 15) is also now in condition for allowance.

Thus, with this Amendment, all of pending claims 1-10 and 15-26 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to

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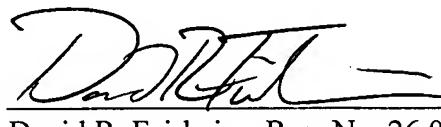
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contact the undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below, if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/3/05

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